



UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED loads

As defined by ANSI MH26.2, a uniformly distributed load (UDL) is “Any static load which is evenly distributed over the entire surface of the rack deck **independent** of the support system.”



In practice for a load to be considered uniformly distributed it must rest over all of the support channels and the majority of the deck surface, coming **within 2 inches of the front and rear load beams**. See “A” below.

A common misconception in the pallet rack industry is that the load must rest over the beams (front and back) to be considered uniformly distributed. See “B” below.

RMI / R-Mark

The Rack Manufacturers Institute (RMI) governs the safety standards for pallet racking and wire decking through the R-Mark certification.

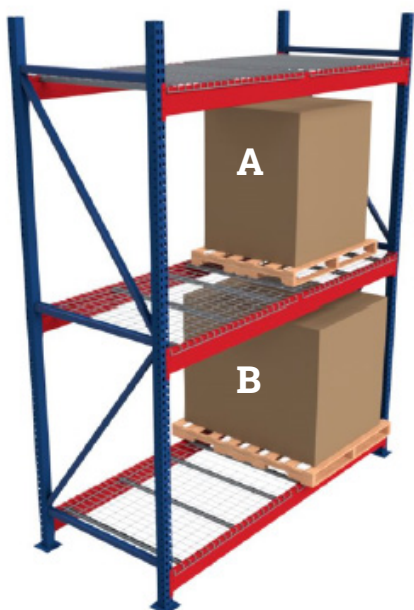


Beware

Some manufacturers will state that the capacity of their decks is based on “the loads resting on the beams”. This means the capacity rating is not based on the R-Mark standard and is likely to fail when supporting a true UDL as defined by ANSI.

YOUR OPTIONS

1. Use only wire decks that are R-Mark certified to ensure they can support a UDL. This ensures your entire system is RMI compliant.
2. Offer lighter capacity wire decks and make clear stipulations that they are only designed for loads resting over both beams. This allows you to be comparable to others who only supply non R-Mark decks.



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